

a.) Amendment to the Claims:

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled).

42. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a ~~lubricated~~ tablet lubricated with a lubricant, comprising the steps of:

selecting a granule containing an active substance, said granule bearing a coating film;

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule and a diluting agent, said molding material ~~containing no~~ not containing any lubricant;

selecting a tableting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches, only said die and pair of punches ~~being lubricated;~~ having said lubricant applied thereto;

operating said tableting machine ~~lubricated die and pair of punches~~ to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material at a tableting pressure of 0.7 to 1.3 ton/cm², wherein said lubricant is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount greater than or equal to 0.0001 weight percent and less than or equal to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

43. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 42, wherein said ~~lubricated~~ lubricant is applied to said die and pair of punches ~~are prepared~~ by the steps comprising:

housing said die and pair of punches in a spray chamber, and
spraying lubricant onto the surfaces of said die and pair of punches utilizing
pulsating vibration air.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a ~~lubricated~~ tablet
lubricated with a lubricant, comprising the steps of:

selecting a granule containing an active substance, said granule being in a
base matrix which is a water-insoluble or hydrophobic high molecular material;

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule and a
diluting agent, said molding material ~~containing no~~ not containing any lubricant;

selecting a tableting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches, only
said die and pair of punches ~~being lubricated;~~ having said lubricant applied thereto;

operating said tableting machine to press said molding material and
produce compressed tablets of said molding material at a tableting pressure of 0.7 to 1.3
ton/cm², wherein said lubricant is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount
greater than or equal to 0.0001 weight percent and less than or equal to 0.2 weight percent
per tablet.

45. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 44, wherein said ~~lubricated~~ lubricant is applied to said die and pair of punches ~~are prepared~~ by the steps comprising:

housing said die and pair of punches in a spray chamber, and

spraying lubricant onto the surfaces of said die and pair of punches utilizing pulsating vibration air.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 42 to 45, wherein said diluting agent is granular.

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said coating film enhances release in intestine.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said coating film prevents bitter taste.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said coating film enhances sustained release.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44 or 45, wherein said base matrix enhances release in intestine.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44 or 45, wherein said base matrix prevents bitter taste.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44 or 45, wherein said base matrix enhances sustained release.

53. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to any one of claims 42-45.

Claims 54-62 (Cancelled).

63. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining a function of a compressed tablet, comprising the steps of:

selecting a granule containing an active substance, said granule bearing a coating film;

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule with a diluting agent, said molding material ~~containing no~~ not containing any lubricant;

selecting a tableting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches, only said die and pair of punches ~~being lubricated;~~ having said lubricant applied thereto;

operating said tableting machine to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material at a tableting pressure of 0.7 to 1.3 ton/cm², wherein said lubricant is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount greater than or equal to 0.0001 weight percent and less than or equal to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

64. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining a function of a compressed tablet, comprising the steps of:

selecting a granule containing an active substance, said granule comprising a base matrix which is a water-insoluble or hydrophobic high molecular material;

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule with a diluting agent, said molding material ~~containing no~~ not containing any lubricant;

selecting a tableting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches, only said die and pair of punches ~~being lubricated;~~ having said lubricant applied thereto;

operating said tableting machine to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material at a tableting pressure of 0.7 to 1.3

ton/cm², wherein said lubricant is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount greater than or equal to 0.0001 weight percent and less than or equal to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said coating film enhances release in intestine.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said coating film prevents bitter taste.

67. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said coating film enhances sustained release.

68. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said base matrix enhances release in intestine.

69. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said base matrix prevents bitter taste.

70. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said base matrix enhances sustained release.

Claim 71 (Cancelled).

72. (New) The method according to either of claims 63 or 64, wherein said lubricant is applied to said die and pair of punches by the steps comprising;

housing said die and pair of punches in a spray chamber, and

spraying lubricant onto the surfaces of said die and pair of punches utilizing pulsating vibration air.

73. (New) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 46.

74. (New) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 47.

75. (New) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 48.

76. (New) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 49.

77. (New) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 50.

78. (New) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 51.

79. (New) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 52.